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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 10/774,449 | 02/10/2004 | Hideaki Okada | 0666.2180000/TGD/MJM | 1688 |
| 26111 | 7590 | 08/24/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX PLLC 1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005 | | | LEWIS, TISHA D | |
| | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | 3681 | | |
| DATE MAILED: 08/24/2005 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/774,449 | OKADA, HIDEAKI |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | TISHA D. LEWIS | 3681 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7, 12-14, 21, 22, 25-30, 33 and 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 8-11, 23, 24, 31 and 32 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Réplacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

The following is a first action on the merits of application serial no. 10/774,449 filed on February 10, 2004.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 15-20 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in the reply filed on July 28, 2005.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed on February 10, 2004 has been considered.

Claim Objections

Claims 21-34 are objected to because of the following informalities:

-The dependency of claim 21 should be changed to due to the current dependency being dependent upon a non-elected invention.
-In claim 34, before "deceleration", "the" should be changed to -a-.
Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 21, 22, 27-29 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable by Keusch et al ('868). Keusch et al discloses a differential assembly having a pair of coaxial axles (62a, 62b), a pair of gear train units drivingly connected to each other and disposed on each axle having a sun gear (56a, 56b) fixed on each axle, a holder (plate 83 and side of bull gear) relatively rotatably provided on each axle, a planetary gear (57a-57d) supported by the holder to mesh with the sun gear, a common bull gear (52) integrally engaging the holders, the holders are symmetrical having the same length and width and joined to each other by the holes inserted into the side face of the holders to support shafts 80 which are perpendicular to the axles, the teeth of the planet gears provide common meshing of the gear train units with each other, at least one gear train is restricted by a differential lock, the bull gear has a central hole for the gear units and the holders are fitted to the hole and the bull gear has outer teeth for receiving rotation from a deceleration assembly (Figures 4 and 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keusch et al in view of Dinkel et al ('403). Keusch et al discloses holders for supporting planet gears, but does not disclose the material of the holders.

Dinkel et al discloses a gear arrangement wherein a carrier for supporting planet gears is made of sintered metal (column 2, lines 53-55).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the holders of Keusch et al from sintered metal in view of Dinkel to provide stronger resistance to wear during frictional operation between rotation of the gear arrangement.

Claims 12-14, 25, 26 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keusch et al in view of Gleasman ('475). Keusch et al discloses a planetary arrangement, but does not disclose it in the form of a worm arrangement.

Gleasman discloses a differential having sun gears in the form of worm wheels (22, 23) and planetary gears in the form of worm pinions (20, 21) which has a rotary axis perpendicular to the axles (A, B) and supported by holders (1, 2).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Keusch et al with a worm arrangement in view of Gleasman to prevent the gear wheels from spinning (column 3, lines 25-30).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-11, 23, 24, 31 and 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Submission of your response by facsimile transmission is encouraged. Group 3600's facsimile number is **(703) 872-9326 before final and 703-872-9327 after final**. Recognizing the fact that reducing cycle time in the processing and examination of patent applications will effectively increase a patent's term, it is to your benefit to submit responses by facsimile transmission whenever permissible. Such submission will place the response directly in our examining group's hands and will eliminate Post Office processing and delivery time as well as the PTO's mail room processing and delivery time. For a complete list of correspondence not permitted by facsimile transmission, see MPEP 502.01. In general, most responses and/or amendments not requiring a fee, as well as those requiring a fee but charging such fee to a deposit account, can be submitted by facsimile transmission. Responses requiring a fee which applicant is paying by check should not be submitting by facsimile transmission separately from the check.

Responses submitted by facsimile transmission should include a Certificate of Transmission (MPEP 512). The following is an example of the format the certification might take:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 000-0000) on _____ (Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

(Signature)

If your response is submitted by facsimile transmission, you are hereby reminded that the original should be retained as evidence of authenticity (37 CFR 1.4 and MPEP 502.02). Please do not separately mail the original or another copy unless required by the Patent and Trademark Office. Submission of the original response or a follow-up copy of the response after your response has been transmitted by facsimile will only cause further unnecessary delays in the processing of your application; duplicate responses where fees are charged to a deposit account may result in those fees being charged twice.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

-Kawada et al ('557), Caringella et al ('738), Mace et al ('252), Knight ('535), Pras ('223).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TISHA D. LEWIS whose telephone number is 571-272-7093. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thur 6 AM TO 2:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, CHARLES A. MARMOR can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tdl
August 22, 2005

T. Lewis
TISHA LEWIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 3681 8/22/05